

Part 1 – Amendment to the Claims

1.-7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A seat cushion as defined in claim 7, wherein:~~

A flexible seat cushion for supporting a person in a seated position thereon, having generally transversely spaced and longitudinally extending longitudinal sides and
5 generally longitudinally spaced and transversely extending front and rear transverse sides, the longitudinal sides intersecting the rear side at rear corners and the longitudinal sides intersecting the front side at front corners, and an upper surface extending between the sides and defining a support contour for contacting and supporting a person in a sitting position, comprising:

10 a support contour, including relief areas at locations adjacent to skin covering at least one bony prominence of a pelvic area of the person seated on the cushion, and support areas adjacent to skin covering tissue masses adjacent to the one bony prominence, the relief areas and support areas positioned to establish relatively less pressure on the skin in the relief areas and relatively more pressure on
15 the skin in the support areas, the relief areas including a center cavity generally transversely centered between the longitudinal sides and longitudinally spaced more toward the rear side than the front side;

a support member attached to a rear corner of the flexible seat cushion, the support member having relatively less flexibility than the seat cushion to resist
20 deformation of the support contour from contact with the pelvic area of the person when seated on the seat cushion;

a connector member connected to the support member and extending along one of the longitudinal sides or the rear side which intersect at the rear corner, the connector member having a length that is adjustable to move the support member
25 in a direction substantially parallel to one side along which the connector member extends, the connector member comprises a strap having first and second portions, the first portion of the strap is connected to the support member, the second portion of the strap is connected to the one side along which the connector member extends,

the strap includes a fastener, ~~[[+]]~~ and the first and second portions are interconnected
30 by the fastener.

9. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 8, wherein:
a functional length of the strap is adjustable.
10. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 9, wherein:
the fastener connects the first and second portions at a plurality of
selected positions to adjust the functional length of the strap.
11. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 10, wherein:
the fastener comprises a buckle.
12. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 11, wherein:
the buckle connects the first and the second portions of the strap; and
the buckle is fixed to one of the first or second portions of the strap, and
the buckle holds the other one of the first or second portions of the strap to adjust the
5 functional length of the strap.
13. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 12, wherein:
the buckle holds the other one of the first or second portions by friction.
14. (Currently Amended) ~~A seat cushion as defined in claim 7, wherein:~~
A flexible seat cushion for supporting a person in a seated position thereon, having
generally transversely spaced and longitudinally extending longitudinal sides and
generally longitudinally spaced and transversely extending front and rear transverse
5 sides, the longitudinal sides intersecting the rear side at rear corners and the
longitudinal sides intersecting the front side at front corners, and an upper surface
extending between the sides and defining a support contour for contacting and
supporting a person in a sitting position, comprising:
a support contour, including relief areas at locations adjacent to skin
10 covering at least one bony prominence of a pelvic area of the person seated on the
cushion, and support areas adjacent to skin covering tissue masses adjacent to the
one bony prominence, the relief areas and support areas positioned to establish
relatively less pressure on the skin in the relief areas and relatively more pressure on
the skin in the support areas, the relief areas including a center cavity generally

15 transversely centered between the longitudinal sides and longitudinally spaced more toward the rear side than the front side;

a support member attached to a rear corner of the flexible seat cushion, the support member having relatively less flexibility than the seat cushion to resist deformation of the support contour from contact with the pelvic area of the person

20 when seated on the seat cushion;

a connector member connected to the support member and extending along one of the longitudinal sides or the rear side which intersect at the rear corner, the connector member having a length that is adjustable to move the support member in a direction substantially parallel to one side along which the connector member

25 extends, the connector member comprises a strap having first and second portions, the first portion of the strap is connected to the support member, the second portion of the strap is connected at a position along the one side of the longitudinally or transversely extending sides; and along which the connector member extends, and the position along the one side of the longitudinally or transversely extending sides at
30 which the second portion of the strap is connected is adjustable.

15. (Currently Amended) A seat cushion as defined in claim 14, wherein:
the second portion of the strap is connected in the position along the one side of the longitudinally or transversely extending sides by a hook and loop fastener.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~A seat cushion as defined in claim 2, further comprising:~~ A flexible seat cushion for supporting a person in a seated position thereon, having generally transversely spaced and longitudinally extending longitudinal sides and generally longitudinally spaced and transversely extending front
5 and rear transverse sides, the longitudinal sides intersecting the rear side at rear corners and the longitudinal sides intersecting the front side at front corners, and an upper surface extending between the sides and defining a support contour for contacting and supporting a person in a sitting position, comprising:

a support contour, including relief areas at locations adjacent to skin
10 covering at least one bony prominence of a pelvic area of the person seated on the

cushion, and support areas adjacent to skin covering tissue masses adjacent to the one bony prominence, the relief areas and support areas positioned to establish relatively less pressure on the skin in the relief areas and relatively more pressure on the skin in the support areas, the relief areas including a center cavity generally
15 transversely centered between the longitudinal sides and longitudinally spaced more toward the rear side than the front side;

a support member attached to a rear corner of the flexible seat cushion, the support member having relatively less flexibility than the seat cushion to resist deformation of the support contour from contact with the pelvic area of the person
20 when seated on the seat cushion;

a first connector member connected to the support member and extending along one longitudinal side; and

a second connector member connected to the support member and extending along the rear transverse side; and ~~other one of the longitudinal or transverse sides, the first aforesaid connector member extending along the one side; and~~

the first and second connector members connect to the same support member at the ~~intersection of the one and the other of the longitudinal and transverse sides which intersect at the rear corner adjacent to the center cavity.~~

17. (Currently Amended) A seat cushion as defined in claim 16, wherein:
the first and second connector members have functional lengths that are adjustable independently of one another to move the support member in a direction parallel to the extension of the ~~one and the other of the longitudinal and rear~~
5 ~~for~~ transverse sides, respectively; and

adjustment of a functional length of either one of the connector members changes the shape of the support contour at the cavity where the support member is located.

18. (Currently Amended) A seat cushion as defined in claim 17, wherein the bony prominences of the pelvic area include ischial tuberosities and coccyx and sacrum, and wherein the seat cushion includes:

- a back wall surrounding the rear pelvic area of the person, the back wall
- 5 defining a portion of the center cavity of the support contour, the transversely
extending rear side of the cushion including the back wall; and wherein:
- the center cavity is located directly below the ischial tuberosities of the
person sitting when on the support contour, the cavity curving downwardly and
longitudinally forwardly and transversely inwardly from the back wall to a generally
- 10 horizontal lowermost surface area of the cavity, the lowermost surface area of the
cavity is at a location vertically spaced below the ischial tuberosities and has
longitudinal and transverse dimensions relative to the ischial tuberosities to establish
the relatively less pressure on the skin covering the ischial tuberosities during
movement within an anticipated range of forward, backward and side to side
- 15 movement of an upper torso of the person sitting on the support contour, the
lowermost surface area constituting one relief area of the support contour;
- a channel area located directly behind the coccyx and sacrum of the
person sitting on the support contour, the channel area extending downwardly and
longitudinally forwardly from the back wall toward the lowermost surface area of the
- 20 cavity at a transverse midline of the support contour, the channel area has
dimensions extending longitudinally and transversely relative to the coccyx and
sacrum to establish the relatively less pressure on the skin covering the coccyx and
sacrum during an anticipated range of normal movement of the pelvic area of the
person while sitting on the support contour, the channel area constituting a relief
- 25 area;
- at least one pelvic protrusion area located adjacent the skin covering
the tissue masses at the opposite lateral posterior buttocks of the person sitting on
the support contour, each pelvic protrusion area located at transversely oppositely
spaced positions from the channel area, each pelvic protrusion area generally curving
- 30 vertically downwardly and transversely and longitudinally inwardly from the back wall
toward the lowermost surface area, each pelvic protrusion area terminating vertically
above the lowermost surface area, each pelvic protrusion area defining a forwardly
and upwardly facing contact surface to contact the skin covering the tissue masses at

the lateral posterior buttocks, the forwardly and upwardly facing contact surfaces
35 transferring force to the tissue masses at the opposite posterior buttocks to offload
pressure from the skin covering the coccyx and sacrum while the person is sitting on
the support contour, each pelvic protrusion area constituting a support area; and
wherein:

the contact surfaces of the protrusion areas extend forwardly into the
40 cavity compared to the channel area; and

shortening a functional length of the second connector ~~support~~ member
moves the pelvic protrusion area adjacent to the support member relatively more
transversely inward toward the pelvic area of the user.

19. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 18, wherein the bony
prominences of the pelvic area also include greater trochanters, and wherein the seat
cushion further includes:

a lateral area on each opposite transverse side of the cavity and located
5 transversely to the outside of and vertically below the greater trochanters of the
person sitting on the support contour, each lateral area generally curving vertically
downwardly and transversely inwardly from an outer periphery of the support contour
to intersect transverse opposite sides of the cavity at a position above the ischial
tuberosities of the person sitting on the support contour, the lateral areas also
10 extending longitudinally relative to the greater trochanters of the person sitting on the
support contour, the lateral areas having sufficient longitudinal, transverse and
vertical dimensions to establish the relatively less pressure on the skin covering the
greater trochanters during movement within an anticipated range of different
contacting support positions of the person on the support contour, each lateral area
15 constituting one relief area; and

a posterior thigh protrusion area located beneath the skin covering the
tissue masses at the posterior thighs of the person sitting on the support contour,
each posterior thigh protrusion area located on transversely oppositely sides of a
longitudinal midline through the support contour, each posterior thigh protrusion area
positioned vertically above and longitudinally forward of each lateral area, each

posterior thigh protrusion area defining an upwardly facing fulcrum-like contact surface at a posterior position of the thigh leg bone, the posterior thigh protrusion areas have sufficient longitudinal, transverse and vertical dimensions to establish the relatively greater pressure on the skin covering the tissue masses at the posterior thighs, the fulcrum-like contact surfaces transferring force from the legs distal to the proximal thighs in a lever-like manner through the thigh bones to elevate the greater trochanters relative to the lateral areas while the person is sitting on the support contour, each posterior thigh protrusion area constitutes a support area; and wherein:

shortening a functional length of the first connector member moves the pelvic protrusion area adjacent to the support member relatively more forward toward the pelvic area of the user.

20. (Original) A seat cushion comprising a resilient seat support structure having longitudinally-extending and transversely-extending sides intersecting at corners and defining an upward facing support contour extending between the sides to contact and support a person in a sitting position, comprising:

5 relief areas defined by the support contour and positioned adjacent to skin covering the ischial tuberosities, the greater trochanters and the coccyx and sacrum of a pelvic area of the person sitting on the support contour;

support areas defined by the support contour and positioned adjacent to skin covering tissue masses on opposite lateral sides of the posterior buttocks and
10 beneath the proximal thighs of the person;

a support member positioned at a corner where a longitudinally-extending and a rear transversely-extending sidewall of the seat support structure intersect, the support member being relatively less flexible than the seat support structure to resist deformation of the support contour when contacted by the person
15 seated on the seat cushion;

a longitudinal connector member that connects the support member to a longitudinally extending side of the seat support structure at a position longitudinally spaced from the corner where the support member is located, the longitudinal

connector member restraining the support member to resist longitudinal deformation
20 of the support contour at the corner where the support member is located;

a transverse connector member that connects the support member to a
rear transverse extending side of the seat support structure at a position transversely
spaced from the corner where the support member is located, the transverse
connector member restraining the support member to resist transverse deformation of
25 the support contour at the corner where the support member is located; and wherein:

the relief areas and support areas are spaced relatively more away from
and relatively more toward the pelvic area of the person, respectively, to establish
relatively less pressure on the skin in the relief areas and relatively more pressure on
the skin in the support areas and the support member supports the corner of the seat
30 support structure to assist in maintaining the support contour of the seat support
structure at the corner.

21. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 20, wherein the
longitudinal connector member adjusts to move longitudinally the support member
and a portion of the seat support structure at the corner where the support member is
located to alter the support contour.

22. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 21, wherein the transverse
connector member adjusts to move transversely the support member and a portion of
the seat support structure at the corner where the support member is located to alter
the support contour.

23. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 20, wherein the transverse
connector member adjusts to move transversely the support member and a portion of
the seat support structure at the corner where the support member is located to alter
the support contour.

24. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 20, wherein one of the
longitudinal or transverse connector members adjusts to move the support member
and a portion of the seat support structure at the corner where the support member is
located to alter the support contour.

25. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 24, wherein the movement of the support member compresses a part of the seat support structure at the corner where the support member is located to alter the support contour at that location.

26. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 20, wherein:

the support member is positioned at a first corner of the seat support structure, the support member positioned at the first corner being a first support member; the longitudinal connector member connecting to the first support member
5 being a first longitudinal connector member, the transverse connector member connecting to the first support member being a first transverse connector member; and further comprising:

a second support member positioned at a second corner of the seat support structure;

10 a second longitudinal connector member that connects the second support member to the other of longitudinally extending sides of the seat support structure which is opposite of the one longitudinally extending side to which the first longitudinal connector member is connected;

a second transverse connector member that connects the second
15 support member to the same rear transverse extending side of the seat support structure to which the first transverse connector member is connected; and wherein:

the first and second support members reinforce the flexible seat support structure to maintain the support contour against significant deformation at the first and second corners in response to the user sitting on the cushion.

27. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 26, wherein the first and second support members are moveable independently of each other.

28. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 26, wherein the connector members comprise straps and the first and second longitudinal connector members are formed by portions of a single continuous strap.

29. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 28, wherein a portion of the single continuous strap is connected to a bottom surface of the seat support structure.

30. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 20, wherein the longitudinal connector member and the transverse connector member connector comprise straps.

31. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 30, wherein the straps are made from nylon.

32. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 30, wherein the straps include end portions that are connected together with hook and loop fasteners.

33. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 32, wherein the transverse connector member connects to itself with hook and loop connectors to connect the support member to the rear transverse extending side of the seat support structure.

34. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 32, further comprising:
an attachment strip that is connected to one of the longitudinally or rear transverse extending sides of the seat support structure, and wherein the connector member on the one of the longitudinally or rear transverse extending side connects to
5 the attachment strip.

35. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 30, further comprising:
a slotted connector pivotally connected to the support member and connecting the support member to one of the longitudinal or transverse connector members.

36. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 30, further comprising:
a slot defined within the support member; and wherein:
one of the longitudinal or transverse connector member loops through the slot to connect the support member to the seat support structure.

37. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 26, further comprising:
a brace connected to extend a distance between a first point on the first support member and a second point on the second support member and to maintain the distance between the first point and the second point.

38. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 37, wherein:
the connector members have functional lengths that are adjustable, the seat cushion further comprising:

a pivot joint connecting the first support member to the brace to allow
5 the first transverse connector member to pivot the first support member transversely
with respect to the brace by adjusting the functional length of the first transverse
connector member; and wherein:

the first support member is pivoted longitudinally by adjusting the
functional length of the first longitudinal connector member.

39. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 38, wherein:

the pivot joint connecting the first support member to the brace is the
first pivot joint, the seat cushion further comprising:

a second pivot joint connecting the second support member to the
5 brace to allow the second transverse connector member to pivot the second support
member transversely with respect to the brace by adjusting the functional length of
the second transverse connector member; and wherein:

the second support member is pivoted longitudinally by adjusting the
functional length of the second longitudinal connector member.

40. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 39, wherein:

the first transverse connector member connects to the first support
member and to the second pivot joint.

41. (Original) A seat cushion as defined in claim 39, wherein:

the second transverse connector member connects to the second
support member and to the first pivot joint.

42.-53. (Canceled)